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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/915,683	08/21/1997	MUNEHISA FUJITA	Q38612-1	1847

7590 06/18/2003
SUGHRUE MION ZINN MACPEAK & SEAS
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 200373202

EXAMINER

WALKE, AMANDA C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1752

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2003

49

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

08/915,683

Applicant(s)

FUJITA ET AL.

Examiner

Amanda C Walke

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-7 and 9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-7 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/4/2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 5-7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans et al (4,504,570) in view of either Tanemura et al (5,081,009) or Shuto et al (5,110,719) and Tsauro et al (5,210,013).

Evans et al teach core/shell tabular grains which may be used in direct positive internal latent image systems (column 9, lines 17-30). In the examples, emulsion B contains grains which have a crystal morphology as presently claimed. The "a" and "b" values claimed in the instant application are comparable to those values obtained from the emulsions of Evans et al. However, the primary reference does not teach the sulfur sensitizer as presently claimed, but does teach that suitable sensitizers include sulfur sensitizers (column 11, lines 22-46 and column 21, lines 14-31). It appears from the examples that it is preferable to prepare an emulsion that is fairly

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momodisperse. The examples prepare emulsions wherein the preferred grains of the reference comprise greater than 85 % of the total grain projected area meaning that less than 15% of the total grains are not of the preferred thickness, diameter, and aspect ratio.

Tsaur et al is relied upon solely for its teaching of silver halide grains having a very low coefficient of variation. The reference teaches that it is important to control the variances in thickness of tabular grains as well as the variances of the diameter (ECD) (column 3, lines 1-54, column 5, lines 12-31, and lines 53-67). Emulsions comprising grains having a low COV result in improved photographic properties such as higher sensitivity (column 1, lines 23-65).

Given the teaching of Tsaur et al that it is advantageous to prepare an emulsion having not only a low COV of the grain diameter but also a low COV of the grain thickness, it is the position of the examiner that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to prepare the mainly monodisperse emulsion of Evans et al (wherein greater than 85% of the total grain projected area comprises grains having the preferred thickness, diameter, and aspect ratio) wherein the grains would have a COV of the grain thickness of less than 30%.

Either Tanemura et al or Shuto et al disclose sulfur sensitizers that have the presently claimed structures (A), (B), or (C). These sensitizers are specifically claimed to be useful for core/shell internal latent image silver halide grains. These compounds are disclosed to provide high sensitivity, low D_{\min} , and high D_{\max} in silver halide emulsions (See especially Tanemura et al column 2, line 62 to column 3, line 5 and the claims and Shuto et al column 2, lines 5-9 and the claims).

It would have been obvious to incorporate the sulfur sensitizers of either Tanemura et al or Shuto et al in the grains of Evans et al since the secondary references specifically teach the use

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of the sulfursensitizers in the type of grains taught by Evans et al with reasonable expectation of achieving core/shell tabular grain emulsion which will have an increased sensitivity and D_{\max} and decreased D_{\min} .

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments and declaration filed 4/23/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the Advisory Action of 3/20/2003, which was in response to applicant's 2nd declaration, the examiner stated that there was no evidence on the record that compound A does not have an effect on the emulsions and that applicants would need to demonstrate the effects of samples having the same amount of compound. In the 3rd, most recently filed declaration, applicants prepare samples having emulsions which contain an amount of a different solvent (applicants have previously argued that compound A, while it does contain a sulfur atom and meets the present claim limitations for the sulfur sensitizer is not a sensitizer, but a solvent) which is the same amount that compound A was added to the emulsions. While applicants state that similar results with respect to the D_{\max} , middle sensitivity, D_{\min} , and negative sensitivity, it does not appear that the results are significant and unexpected. The difference in these values for the emulsions containing the non-sulfur atom containing solvent are much smaller than when the sulfur-containing compound A is employed. Thus, it appears as though compound A does indeed have an effect on the sensitivity of an emulsion as well as on other photographic properties, therefore the examiner maintains her rejection.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amanda C Walke whose telephone number is 703-305-0407.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-R 5:30-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janet Baxter can be reached on 703-308-2303. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.


ACW
June 16, 2003


JANET BAXTER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700